

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

The examiner identified two groups of invention, Group I containing Claims 1-7, drawn to a device for orientation and sorting bottles, classified in class 209, subclass 552 and Group II containing Claims 8-11, drawn to a method of orientation and conveying bottles, classified in class 198, subclass 617.

Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the basis that the invention for both groups I and II and the invention as defined in the newly added claims 12-23 is related to raising a bottle/container from a lying position, conveying it to a stabilizing operation, and thereafter conveying it to a further destination in a standing position. No sorting is involved in the operation, other than that based on detected bottle/container data operating the stabilizer in a proper way.

Thus the claims of Groups I and II and the newly added claims 12-23 appear to be so interrelated that a search and examination of the claims of Group I would probably overlap or encompass the search field for the claims of Group II, and the newly added claims 12-23.

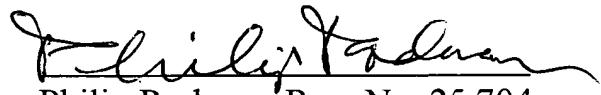
It is thus submitted that a simultaneous search for all of the claims herein can be made without substantial increase of the search effort.

Accordingly, it is believed that the guidelines of MPEP Section 803 as cited below should be followed,

“If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.”

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement and simultaneous
examination of all claims herein is thus respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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